

U.S. Apln. No. 09/904,317
Reply to Office Action dated February 17, 2006

PATENT
450100-03327

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10-15 and 17, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claim 16 was previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 10-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. The present amendment obviates the 112 issues and Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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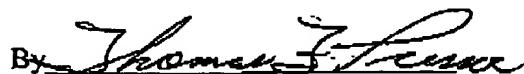
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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